



Newsletter

Monday, May 20, 2013

2013 Older Americans Month Theme: *Unleash the Power of Age*

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Federal Elder Justice Interagency Working Group Shares Strategies for Federal Action on Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

At its May 13th Spring meeting convened by Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee and Acting Associate Attorney General Tony West, members of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council (Council) received from the Elder Justice Interagency Working Group (EJWG) a total of [nine proposals](#) on federal action to address elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Each proposal was organized to provide the Council with a summary of the:

- Purpose or desired outcome of the proposal.
- Current status in the area, including brief background on work federal agencies may already be involved in.
- Next steps for analyzing the proposals for implementation.

[Download the full proposal presentation.](#)

The next step for the EJWG is to develop implementation strategies for each proposal. The Working Group will incorporate comments and directions provided by the Council members. It will also consider input from advocates and stakeholders. To ensure that all voices are heard, the Council invites the public to review the proposals and share their comments and suggestions. Please [email them to the Council](#).

Note: An archive of the webstream and transcript will be provided soon on the [Elder Justice Coordinating Council website](#).

The EJWG was established following the October 12, 2012 inaugural meeting of the Council. At this meeting Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Kathleen Sebelius was joined by Attorney General Eric Holder, Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue, Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut), and representatives of other Federal department and agency Council members. The meeting included four panels of nationally-recognized, non-Federal government experts who presented testimony on issues of paramount importance in addressing elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Along with developing the proposals, the EJWG has prepared a report of [Federal Accomplishments](#) in elder justice since 2010.

Don't forget that World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is on June 15th. You can download a range of materials from the Administration on Aging (AoA) [Year of Elder Abuse Prevention](#) (YEAP) webpage. The goal of YEAP is to encourage national, state and local organizations to protect seniors and raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Visit the AoA-funded [National Center on Elder Abuse](#) to learn more about what you can do to prevent elder abuse and how you can engage members in your community to support World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. And don't forget to [let the NCEA know](#) what you're doing for World Day. Your ideas may inspire others!

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1 in 5 U.S. Children Have Mental Disorder According to a New CDC Report

According to a new report issued last week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the United States, 1 in 5 children have mental disorders and estimates are increasing. "Mental Health Surveillance among Children in the United States - 2005-2011," is the first CDC report to track the number of U.S. children age 3-17 years who have specific mental disorders or indicators of mental health.

The report, a supplement to the [CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), documents that millions of U.S. children have mental disorders. Boys and girls of all ages, regions, ethnic and racial backgrounds experience these health issues. The report is an important step to better understand childhood mental disorders, identify gaps in data and develop strategies to help children reach their full potential in life.

[Read more.](#)

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Voting Begins in the Unleash the Power of Age in Your Community Challenge

People across our nation are achieving remarkable things in later life. Many older adults are experts in their fields, have years of valuable experience and are using that knowledge to improve the lives of others.

Go to the “Unleash the Power of Age” Challenge [website](#) and take a moment to select your favorite nominees in the Challenge. These older Americans are making positive changes in their communities. This is your chance to celebrate and honor them. Public voting runs from May 20 – May 28. Cast your vote today!

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New Data Show Senior Volunteers at a Ten-Year High

In cities across the country, older Americans are donating their time and expertise in record numbers. According to data released by the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS), senior volunteering hit a ten-year high in 2011. More than twenty million older Americans donated nearly three billion hours of services valued at \$67 billion.

CNCS also found:

- One in three volunteers is age 55 or older.
- The percentage of seniors volunteering increased from 25.1 percent in 2002 to 31.2 percent in 2011.
- 72.4 percent of older adults — higher than the national average — provided informal favors such as helping out a neighbor.

[Read more.](#)

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Information You Need: New Medicare Equipment and Supplies Program in Your Community

If you help people with Original Medicare to get certain durable medical equipment and supplies, such as oxygen, walkers and wheelchairs, you should know about a Medicare program, called the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) competitive bidding program. It saves money for taxpayers and people with Medicare and may change the suppliers people with Medicare will need to use.

The first round of the program went into effect in nine areas of the country on January 1, 2011. Money spent for equipment included in the program was reduced by over 42 percent in its first year of operation while maintaining access to quality equipment and supplies.

Now the program's benefits may be coming to people with Original Medicare near you. Round 2 of the program is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2013. It will expand the program to [91 additional areas across](#) the country.

The 8 product categories included in Round 2 of the program are:

- Oxygen, oxygen equipment, and supplies
- Standard (power and manual) wheelchairs, scooters, and related accessories
- Enteral nutrients, equipment, and supplies
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) devices, Respiratory Assist Devices (RADs) and related supplies and accessories
- Hospital beds and related accessories
- Walkers and related accessories
- Support surfaces (Group 2 mattresses and overlays)
- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy pumps and related supplies and accessories

Medicare will pay for the above items purchased from a Medicare Contract Supplier. [Click here](#) for the list of Medicare Contract Suppliers or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Also, last week, Medicare began mailing information to people with Medicare in the 91 Round 2 areas who use the items included in the program, in addition to those who use diabetic testing supplies across the country. Approximately 5.7 million people with Medicare will get a letter and information. [Click here](#) to review the letters, introductory brochure, national mail-order program fact sheet and other program education materials.

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Reminder: First Session of the 2013 Webinar Series on Alzheimer's Disease and Resources

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) are collaborating to host a webinar series with the goals of 1) improving coordination of federal resources available to assist people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias and their family caregivers and 2) encouraging awareness of research participation opportunities.

NIA & ACL invite you to take advantage of these opportunities. You can register for all the webinars or just the one or two that most interest you. Registration will open approximately two months in advance of each webinar.

Details on the first session are below.

Webinar #1: *Updates on Alzheimer's Disease Research & Resources*

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

Much has happened since our first overview session in May, 2012. Join this session to find out the latest detailed information on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, including:

- The updated 2013 National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease
- Research updates & developments, including new clinical studies funded
- Resource updates & developments, including updates from alzheimers.gov, ADEAR, Eldercare Locator, and National Alzheimer's Contact Center

Presenters:

- Jane Tilly, DrPH, Office of Supportive & Caregiver Services, Administration on Aging, ACL
- Nina Silverberg, PhD, Assistant Director, Alzheimer's Disease Centers Program, NIA
- Jennifer Martindale-Adams, EdD, Co-Director, Caregiver Center, Memphis VA Medical Center
- Ruth Drew, Director of Family & Information Services, Alzheimer's Association
- Mary Osborne, Program Manager, Eldercare Locator, n4a
- Jennifer Watson, Project Officer, Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center, NIA

Moderator: Amy Wiatr-Rodriguez, ACL

To register for the online event:

1. [Click here](#) to open the registration site.
2. On the registration form, enter your information and click "Submit". Once the host approves your registration, you will receive a confirmation email message with instructions on how to join the event.

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From the HHS Secretary

HHS Health Care Innovation Initiative Round Two Funding

New funds will award programs to build on the Obama administration's work to transform the health care system by delivering better care and lowering costs

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius last week announced a nearly \$1 billion initiative that will fund awards and evaluation to build on the Obama administration's work to transform the health care system by delivering better care and lowering costs. This second round of Health Care Innovation Awards will fund applicants that have a high likelihood of driving health care system transformation and delivering better outcomes.

Made possible by the Affordable Care Act, the Health Care Innovation Awards provides another opportunity to improve the quality of health care and bring down costs for taxpayers and patients. The health care law includes many tools to:

- Avoid costly mistakes and readmissions.
- Keep patients healthy.
- Reward quality instead of quantity.
- Create health information technology infrastructure that enables new payment and delivery models to work.

[Fact Sheet.](#)

Associated Funding Opportunity

This is the second round of an initiative that will fund applicants who propose new payment and service delivery models that will provide better health, better health care, and lower costs through improved quality for Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollees.

Applicants will propose new service delivery models along with the design of corresponding new payment models. If their applications are funded, awardees will be required to implement the service delivery models at the start of the three-year cooperative agreement period and submit a fully developed new Medicare, Medicaid, or CHIP payment model by the end of the cooperative agreement period. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), at its discretion and consistent with the requirements of Section 1115A of the Social Security Act, may further develop one or more of these payment and service delivery models and open them to participation through a subsequent solicitation. Successful applicants will demonstrate that they can implement a model that improves quality of care and reduces cost within the first six months of the award and delivers net savings to CMS within three years.

Key dates:

Letter of Intent to Apply will be accepted June 1 – June 28, 2013 3:00 p.m. EDT.

Applications will be accepted June 14 – August 15, 2013 3:00 p.m. EDT.

[Read more.](#)

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Medicare Fraud Strike Force Closes Eight-City Operation

89 charged for approximately \$223 million in false billing

Attorney General Eric Holder and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced last week that a nationwide takedown by Medicare Fraud Strike Force operations in eight cities has resulted in charges against 89 individuals. Those charged included doctors, nurses and other licensed medical professionals, for their alleged participation in Medicare fraud schemes involving approximately \$223 million in false billings.

This coordinated takedown was the sixth national Medicare fraud takedown in Strike Force history. In total, almost 600 individuals have been charged in connection with schemes involving almost \$2 billion in fraudulent billings in these national takedown operations alone. The Medicare Fraud Strike Force operations are part of the Health Care Fraud Prevention & Enforcement Action Team ([HEAT](#)), a joint initiative announced in May 2009 between the Department of Justice and HHS to focus their efforts to prevent and deter fraud and enforce current anti-fraud laws around the country.

[Read more.](#)

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HHS Announces the Winners of the Reducing Cancer among Women of Color Challenge

Apps help underserved and minority women take control of their health

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health J. Nadine Gracia, MD, MSCE last week announced the winners of the *Reducing Cancer among Women of Color Challenge*. The challenge is a first-of-its-kind effort to address health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities. The winning apps will help women of color prevent and fight cancer.

The *Reducing Cancer among Women of Color Challenge* is a partnership between HHS offices of Minority Health and the National Coordinator for Health IT. It challenged innovators and developers to create a mobile device-optimized tool that engages and empowers women to improve the prevention and treatment of breast, cervical, uterine, and ovarian cancer in underserved and minority communities and that can interface with provider electronic health records.

The winning apps, Big Yellow Star, Broadstone Technologies, Appbrahma, HW-Technology, and Netzealous, are designed to help women of color prevent and fight cancer by linking them to information regarding preventive and screening services and locations, including support groups and care services. The apps all focus on providing high-quality health information in different languages to women and community health workers about screening and preventive services. The apps were developed to interface securely with patient health records and strengthen communication across a patient's care team in an effort to better coordinate information and care.

[Read more.](#)

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Stay Informed

This Week's Quick Facts

In 2010, more than half of adults aged 15 to 64 with severe disabilities received some form of public assistance (59 percent). About 33 percent received Social Security benefits, compared with 9 percent of those with non-severe disabilities and 3 percent of those with no disability.

More than half (63 percent) of centenarians are age 100 or 101 while roughly 92 percent are ages 100 to 104. Super-centenarians — those ages 110 and older — represented 1 percent of the centenarian population.

ASA Webinar on *Spirituality and Brain Health*

Recent studies at the cutting edge of neuroscience have proven a startling connection between spirituality and brain function. Spirituality and spiritual practices such as meditation or prayer can affect the brain profoundly and can potentially contribute to improved brain health.

You are invited to join the American Society on Aging this seminar to learn about research findings that support the connection between spirituality and brain function. In addition, the discussion will explore specific practices that can be used to help enhance brain function and brain health. It will also consider potential negative consequences of spirituality on brain health in order to help avoid such problems.

Presenter:

Dr. Andrew Newberg, Director of Research, Thomas Jefferson University Myrna Brind Center of Integrative Medicine

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m. PT / 11:00 a.m. MT / 12:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. ET

[Register.](#)

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Webinar for Advocates for Immigrants with Disabilities

People with disabilities face unique and difficult challenges when they are undocumented immigrants, especially when caught up in the immigrant detention system. You are invited to join the National Disability Rights Network for a webinar that will address this topic.

Presenters:

Tally Kingsnorth, Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project (Arizona)

Jennifer Alewelt, Arizona Center for Disability Law

Andrew Lorenzen-Strait, Deputy Assistant Director, Custody Programs and Community Outreach.

Date: Thursday 23 May 2013

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. EDT

[Register.](#)

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Webinar Reminders

Mental Health Webinar: Who's Leading the Leading Health Indicators?

Sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP), this webinar will provide an overview of the Mental Health Leading Health Indicator (LHI), one of 12 LHI topics released by HHS. The discussion will also highlight one program's success around suicide prevention in a Tribal community.

Objectives:

- To raise awareness of the Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicators (LHIs) and actions that can be taken to address them.
- To examine the context in addressing each LHI topic.
- To explore how states, communities, and organizations are addressing the LHIs using innovative and evidence-based approaches.

Presentations:

- LHI Topic Overview: Mental Health
- Who's Leading the Leading Health Indicators? – Mental Health

Presenters:

Don Wright, MD, MPH, Director, ODPHP, HHS

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013

Time: 12:00 p.m. EDT

[Register.](#)

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NCOA Webinar on Using Social Media to Advance Your Mission and Program Reach

Facebook; Twitter; YouTube; Pinterest. You may be familiar with these and other social media tools, but do you know how to use them on an organizational level to reach your target audience?

Join the National Council on Aging's Center for Healthy Aging and Center for Benefits Outreach & Enrollment for its May webinar to examine some of the most commonly used social media tools, who's using them and how they can advance the mission of your organization.

Discover:

- How to set up an organizational Facebook page and Twitter feed.
- Examples of how agencies throughout the aging network have used Twitter and Facebook to successfully reach their target audiences.
- How to measure your social media outreach.
- Other new social media outlets and how you might use them to promote your cause.

Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013-05-09

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

[Register.](#)

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National Resource Center on Nutrition Aging Webinars on Identifying the Actual Cost of a Meal

As part of the Momentum Series, the National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging is sponsoring two different webinars on Identifying the Actual Cost of a Meal.

The first session, *What is the Importance for the Nutrition Program*, was held last week. Details on the next session are below.

Part 2 – Understanding and Calculating Meal Costs

Part 2 will focus on understanding all of the components of the total meal cost (not just the raw food cost) and will provide the tools to identify and calculate actual meal costs. Use of these tools will assist in monitoring and managing meal costs to assist in surviving in this competitive environment. Webinar participants will be given a workbook with cost management exercises and will have the opportunity ask questions and share ideas.

Presenter:

Audrey McCool, EdD, RD, LD, Emeritus Professor from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. EDT

[Register.](#)

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Nutrition Resource Center, tools, and future webinars.

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HHS Partnership Center Health Care Law Webinars in May

The HHS Partnership Center continues to host a series of webinars for faith and community leaders. All webinars are open to the public and include a question and answer session.

To participate in one of the May webinars, please click on the title of the webinar and fill out the registration form. After registering you will receive an e-mail confirmation containing information about joining the webinar.

Contact the HHS Partnership Center at ACA101@hhs.gov if you have problems registering or if you have any questions about the health care law.

[The Health Care Law 101 \(in Spanish\)](#)

A presentation on the main provisions in the Affordable Care Act, the health care law, and how to access care in your community [in Spanish](#). Information on the Health Insurance Marketplace and how to get updates on implementation of the law will be shared.

Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Time: 3:00 p.m. ET

[The Health Care Law 101](#)

A presentation on the main provisions in the Affordable Care Act, the health care law, and how to access care in your community. Information on the Health Insurance Marketplace and how to receive updates on implementation of the law will be shared.

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013

Time: 2:00 p.m. ET

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Webinar on Partnering to Serve Veterans and Family Caregivers: Collaborative Opportunities with the Caregiver Support and Geriatrics & Extended Care Programs

In FY 12, 8.8 million of the 22.3 million Veterans in the United States were enrolled in the VA Health Care System. In addition, many Veterans who

receive care through the VA also receive care from community providers. The goal of this webinar is to promote cross-program collaboration between the VA and the Aging and Disability Services Networks at state and local levels.

The webinar will highlight services available through VA's Caregiver Support Program such as Building Better Caregivers, REACH VA, the Caregiver Support Line, Peer Support Mentoring and the role of the Caregiver Support Coordinator. The many services available to Veterans offered by Geriatrics & Extended Care including: Veteran Directed Care, Home Based Primary Care, Respite Care and a range of long term care community based support services will be covered.

At the conclusion of this program, Aging and Disability Network Providers will have an increased understanding of the VHA System of Care, knowledge of the supportive services and programs offered by VA to Veterans as well as key VA points of contact at state and local levels.

Presenters:

- Margaret B. Kabat LCSW-C, CCM, Deputy Director, Caregiver Support Program, Care Management and Social Work Services
- Daniel J. Schoeps, Director, Purchased Long Term Care Services and Supports, Geriatrics and Extended Care
- Patrick O'Keefe, Program Analyst, Geriatrics and Extended Care

Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013

Time: 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. ET

1. To register for this online event:
2. [Click here](#) to open the registration site.
3. Click "Register".
4. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

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Tools & Information

Get Your "Friends and Family Health Kit"

The "Friends and Family Health Kit" is a collection of 20 quick to read, easy to understand publications that provide valuable healthcare-related information. The kit is a joint partnership between the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Women's Health and the General Services Administration's Federal Citizen Information Center.

[Click here](#) to order a free kit for yourself and more to share with others. You can also download each publication.

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NIA Launches New Blog for Research Community

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) last week launched *Inside NIA: A Blog for Researchers*. It features weekly posts on topics of interest to the research community in aging. The goal of the Blog is to create an open and transparent dialogue with you, an important member of NIA's research community.

The first [post](#) is from Dr. Robin Barr, director of NIA's Division of Extramural Activities. Future posts will come from Robin and a host of authors from the NIA Office of the Director and the Divisions of Aging Biology, Behavioral and Social Research, Geriatrics and Clinical Gerontology, and Neuroscience.

[Sign up now](#) to get *Inside NIA* in your inbox or your RSS reader, and join the conversation!

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National Hurricane Preparedness Week: May 26 – June 1, 2013

History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

[Hurricane hazards](#) come in many forms, including storm surge, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, tornadoes, and rip currents. It is essential that your family is [ready](#) before a storm approaches.

Resources:

- [2013 Hurricane Preparedness Week Poster](#)
- [Tropical Cyclone Preparedness Guide \(pdf\) - Spanish Version \(pdf\)](#)
- [YouTube PSAs on Hurricane Preparedness Week - Spanish Version](#)
- [Be a Force of Nature with NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation](#)
- [NHC Outreach Resources](#)
- [Ready.gov Hurricanes](#)
- [Ready.gov Kids](#)

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Call for Papers from *Healthcare: The Journal of Delivery Science and Innovation*

Health Care: The Journal of Delivery Science and Innovation (Healthcare) publishes cutting edge research on a quarterly basis focused on patient-centered clinical innovation, quality improvement, payment reform and applied health information technology. The next issue will highlight innovations in applied information technology to improve delivery of care.

The *Healthcare* editorial team invites interested parties to submit articles for inclusion in this year's third publication. Submissions can be original research, perspectives, case studies, or an article review. The submission deadline is August 1, 2013.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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May Observances

For the month:

Arthritis Awareness Month

Resources: [Arthritis Foundation](#)

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Theme: "I Want the Wide American Earth"

[Asian American and Pacific islander Heritage Month, 2013 Presidential Proclamation](#)

[Message from HHS Secretary Sebelius](#)

Resources: [Smithsonian Institution Asian Pacific American Center](#) or [Asian/Pacific American Heritage Association](#)

Healthy Vision Month

Resource: [National Eye Institute](#)

Hepatitis Awareness Month

Resource: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Hepatitis Testing Day Webpage](#)

High Blood Pressure Awareness Month

Resource: [National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute](#)

Jewish American Heritage Month

Theme: American Jews in Entertainment

Resource: [Jewish American Heritage Month](#)

National Fitness and Sports Month

[National Fitness and Sports Month, 2013 Presidential Proclamation](#)

Resource: [Healthfinder.gov](#) or [President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition](#)

National Mental Health Month

[National Mental Health Mon, 2013 Presidential Proclamation](#)

[Message from HHS Secretary Sebelius](#)

Theme: "Pathways to Wellness"

Resource: [Mental Health America](#)

Older Americans Month

Theme: "Unleash the Power of Age"

Resource: [ACL Older Americans Month Website](#)

Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month

Resource: [American Cancer Society](#)

Stroke Awareness Month

Resource: [National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke](#) or [National Stroke Association](#)

For the week:

National Hurricane Preparedness Week (May 26-June 1)

Resource: [National Hurricane Center](#)

For the Day:

World No Tobacco Day (May 31)

Theme: "Ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship"

Resource: [WHO World No Tobacco Day Webpage](#)

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